

approval or disapproval, respect or contempt. Clapping and hissing are purely conventional. We salute a friend by offering him vestiges of homage : the Tibetans salute him by protruding the tongue.

Our instinctive impulses are so numerous and so varied that it is exceedingly difficult to group them into general classes. And the difficulty is increased by our desire to find a useful purpose in everything. Those who hold that evolution has been directed by the struggle for life are generally as persuaded that all things have evolved for good as the most convinced believer in Providential intervention. Yet a dispassionate survey of Life's activities will hardly find justification for so comforting a belief. What, for instance, is the use of lust that is not limited by the requirements of reproduction, of appetite that outruns digestion, of gratuitous cruelty, of kindness that disregards merit, of the impulses to dance, and to practise asceticism ? Many, perhaps, most, of our instincts are of practical utility—more, no doubt, than may appear to possess it at first sight. But there are many that are out of all connection with the stern conditions of the struggle for life. From its point of view they are superfluities. If harmful to their possessors they will be eliminated; but when we reflect upon the vast number of species that have become extinct in the past, a suspicion arises that injurious impulses

may have  
survived until they brought a race to  
destruction.  
Did not the giant lizards of the  
Mesozoic age the  
giant mammals of a period less remote,  
outgrow  
their food supply ? Does it not appear  
that there  
may be glands and outgrowths in the  
human  
body (such as the appendix) which are  
not merely  
useless but injurious ? If superfluous  
impulses